

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, 15, 17-25, 27, and 29 are pending in this application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office indicates that claims 5, 15, 17, 27, and 29 contain allowable subject matter.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Kapadia during the telephone interview held on January 9, are appreciated. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 15, 17, 27, and 29 are amended, and claims 5, 13, 16, 26, and 28 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of now canceled claim 5. Allowable dependent claims 15, 17, 27, and 29 are amended into independent form including all of the limitations of all claims from which they depend, respectively. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments simply rewrite allowable dependent claims in independent form); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 13, 18-24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kasiraj (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,183); rejects claims 8, 10, 12, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kasiraj in view of Garfunkel (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,947); and rejects

claims 11, 16 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kasiraj in view of Kimoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,520,409). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 5. Allowable dependent claims 15, 17, 27, and 29 are amended into independent form including all of the limitations of all claims from which they depend, respectively.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 15, 17, 27, and 29 define patentable subject matter. Claims 3-4, 6-12, and 18-25 depend from allowable independent claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, 15, 17-25, 27, and 29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:BAZ/hs

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: February 21, 2006

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